

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 62 without my signature.

I support the intent of this and other measures to increase California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) target to 33% by 2020. However, as drafted this measure would make it more difficult and costly to achieve this very important goal.

As a world leader in climate change and renewable energy development, California needs a regional approach that provides streamlined regulatory processes and compliance flexibility that facilitate the timely construction of in-state resources. This legislative package does the opposite – adds new regulatory hurdles to permitting renewable resources in the state, at the same time limiting the importation of cost-effective renewable energy from other states in the West.

On November 17, 2008, I issued Executive Order S-14-08, which sets a target that all retail sellers of electricity shall serve 33% of their load with renewable energy by 2020.

On September 15, 2009, in order to keep us moving forward, I directed California Air Resources Board (CARB), in Executive Order S-21-09, to adopt regulations that increase procurement of renewable resources in furtherance of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32, Statutes of 2006) and its emission reduction goals.

The CARB's scoping document for the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 determined that achieving 33% RPS is a critical component in the fight against global warming. I expect CARB to complete the regulations implementing the 33% RPS by the fall of 2010.

I remain ready to sign legislation that codifies a workable 33% RPS mandate. California has a rare opportunity to champion the development of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in-state and beyond. We must seize the chance to lay the foundation for a regional effort that optimizes resources throughout the West at a lower cost to ratepayers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger